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Third session

Recife, 16-18 November 1999

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the secretariat

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The provisional agenda presented for adoption is as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Benchmarks and indicators.
5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies.
6. Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology.
7. Traditional knowledge.
8. Early warning systems.
9. Future work programme of the Committee.
10. Roster of independent experts.
11. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels.
12. Other matters.
13. Report on the session.

## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

2. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) (decision 15/COP.1), "(t)he Committee shall adopt a programme of work, which should include estimates regarding its financial implications. The programme of work shall be subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties."

*Venue*

3. Article 24, paragraph 1 of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) provides that the Committee on Science and Technology shall meet "in conjunction with the ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties." The third session of the CST will therefore meet at the Convention Centre of the State of Pernambuco, Recife, during the third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP). Tentatively, the Committee has been scheduled to meet from 16 to 18 November 1999, with a possible extension to 19 November 1999.

*Participants*

4. Article 24, paragraph 1 of the CCD provides that the CST "shall be multidisciplinary and open to the participation of all Parties." Consistent with the provisions of article 22, paragraph 7, it is anticipated that sessions of the CST will be open to observers in accordance with the rules of procedure.

*Documentation*

5. Lists of the documents prepared for the Committee's second and third sessions are contained in annex I. In addition to normal distribution, documents will be made available on the secretariat's World Wide Web site at the following address on the Internet: <<http://www.unccd.de>>.

1. Opening of the session

6. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties (decision 1/COP.1, as amended by decision 20/COP.2), the Chairperson of the CST shall be elected by the COP from the representatives of the Parties present at the session, in a manner that every geographical region shall be represented by at least two members. This will occur at the opening meeting of the COP on 15 November 1999. The third session of the CST will then be opened on 16 November by the Chairperson of the CST.

2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons

7. In accordance with paragraph 6 of the terms of reference of the CST, the CST shall elect its own Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom shall act as Rapporteur. Paragraph 6 of the terms of reference provides: "The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected with due regard to the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and adequate representation of affected country Parties, particularly those in Africa, and shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms."

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

8. The CST will have before it for adoption the provisional agenda contained in paragraph 1 above. It has been prepared on the basis of decision 12/COP.2 and taking into consideration submissions received from the Parties, in accordance with the same decision. A tentative schedule of work is to be found in annex II.

*New recommendations*

9. Provision has been made in the CST schedule of work for the drafting of a report following discussion of the work of the CST during the morning of Thursday 18 November 1999, and for approving it in the afternoon of the same day. Any new recommendations could also be dealt with at the plenary of the COP on 19 November 1999.

4. Benchmarks and indicators

10. By its decision 16/COP.2, the COP endorsed the methodological framework for impact indicators proposed by the ad hoc panel and contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3 and Add.1. By decision 22/COP.1, Governments were requested to initiate testing of impact indicators and to report on the practicality of using those indicators in national reporting to the third session of the Conference of the Parties. Related information is thus to be found in the national reporting of affected African country Parties, contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2.

5. Survey and evaluation of existing networks,  
institutions, agencies and bodies

11. By its decision 17/COP.2, the COP requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to submit a report to it at its third session on the progress of the survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies, in conformity with the mandate given to it by decision 23/COP.1. UNEP was also requested to provide the COP with a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases of the survey and evaluation for consideration by the CST at its third session, in conformity with the same decision.

12. By decision 14/COP.2, UNEP was also requested to ensure that issues relating to linking information networks on traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices to the national action programmes are addressed under the survey and evaluation of networks.

13. Document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4 will be before the CST for review and any direction the CST wishes to recommend to the COP. The CST will also be invited to give recommendations on the methodology to be followed for phases 2 and 3 of this work and on the region and subregions where phase 2 will be implemented.

6. Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

14. The COP, by its decision 15/COP.2, requested the secretariat to update the information on potential areas of cooperation between the Convention and the other conventions and organizations specified in the annex to document ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4. By the same decision, Governments were invited to submit to the secretariat written information on additional organizations, whether national, subregional, regional or international. This information is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

7. Traditional knowledge

15. By decision 14/COP.2, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to complete its ongoing work on compiling the most important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale where appropriate, and make a synthesis of this work available to the CST at its third session. This is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2.

16. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat: (a) to explore ways and means of linking the work of the Committee on traditional knowledge with similar work being undertaken under other related conventions and to report to the CST thereon at its third session; and (b) to prepare a report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems drawing on the discussions that took place at the second session of the CST and the above synthesis and to present it to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1 contains the related information.

17. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also appointed an ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge with the following terms of reference: drawing upon the synthesis referred to in paragraph 15 above to identify successful experiences and conclusions relating to (i) threats and other constraints, including socio-economic impacts, confronting such traditional knowledge and practices; (ii) strategies for integrating traditional and local knowledge, know-how and practices with modern knowledge based on specific case histories; and (iii) mechanisms for

promoting and exchanging successful approaches. In accordance with that decision, the ad hoc panel met in Matera, Italy, from 15 to 18 July 1999. The report of the ad hoc panel (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3) will be before the CST. The CST will be invited to consider that report, adopt any appropriate recommendation to the COP and consider reappointing the panel.

18. The secretariat will also submit a report on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.2).

#### 8. Early warning systems

19. By its decision 12/COP.2, the COP decided that the priority issue to be addressed in depth by the CST at its third session shall be early-warning systems in the broadest sense. By the same decision, Parties were invited to submit written contributions, reporting on already existing experiences of early-warning systems as well as on specialized institutions acting in this field. Accordingly, the secretariat prepared document ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6, which will be before the CST for consideration and any appropriate recommendation it wishes to make.

#### 9. Future work programme of the Committee

20. The CST may wish to consider what recommendation to give to the COP with respect to the future work programme of the CST, and may also wish to make recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the CST in carrying out its responsibilities outlined in its terms of reference during the inter-sessional period.

#### 10. Roster of independent experts

21. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 2 of the Convention, the COP is to establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. Consistent with decision 13/COP.2, the secretariat has maintained the roster, and its updated form is contained in document ICCD/COP(3)/14 and Add.1. The CST may wish to review the roster, and make recommendations to the COP regarding the composition of the roster and any guidance the COP may wish to give to the secretariat as to the appropriate format for it.

#### 11. Creation, if necessary, of an ad hoc panel or panels

22. Under the provisions of article 24, paragraph 3 of the Convention, the COP may, as necessary, appoint ad hoc panels to provide it, through the CST, with information and advice on specific issues regarding the state of the art in relevant fields of science and technology. The CST may wish to consider recommending to the COP the establishment of any ad hoc panels which may be required, including the reappointment of the panel on traditional knowledge referred to in paragraph 17 above.

12. Other matters

23. The CST may wish to consider recommending to the COP whether and how any other inter-sessional work in the domain of science and technology should be undertaken.

13. Report on the session

24. A draft report on the session will be prepared for adoption at the final meeting on the understanding that it will be completed after the session, with the assistance of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairperson.

**Annex I**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR THE SECOND AND THIRD  
SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Third session

|                         |                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1       | Provisional agenda and annotations                                                                                                 |
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2       | Synthesis on important and widely applied traditional knowledge on a subregional and regional basis and on a national scale        |
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3       | Report by the ad hoc panel on traditional knowledge                                                                                |
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.1 | Linkage of the work of CCD on traditional knowledge with that of related conventions                                               |
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add.2 | Synthesis on traditional knowledge in dryland ecosystems                                                                           |
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4       | Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies                                                      |
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5       | Other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST: potential area of cooperation between CCD and the other bodies |
| ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6       | Report on existing experiences and specialized institutions in early warning systems                                               |

Second session

|                         |                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/1       | Adoption of the agenda and organization of work                                          |
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2       | Survey and evaluation of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies            |
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/2/Add.1 | Supplementary report on survey and evaluation of existing networks                       |
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3       | Benchmarks and indicators                                                                |
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/3/Add.1 | Supplementary report on work on benchmarks and indicators: report of ad hoc panel        |
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/4       | Report on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the CST |
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5       | Traditional knowledge                                                                    |
| ICCD/COP(2)/CST/5/Add.1 | Supplementary report on traditional knowledge                                            |

## Annex II

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK FOR THE THIRD SESSION  
OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

| Tuesday 16 November 1999                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organization of work (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/1)</li> <li>- Establishment of a roster of experts (ICCD/COP(3)/14 and Add.1)</li> <li>- Survey and evaluation of networks (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bodies doing work of relevance to CST (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/5)</li> <li>- Benchmarks and indicators (ICCD/COP(3)/5/Add.2)</li> <li>- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/2 and ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3)</li> </ul> |

| Wednesday 17 November 1999                                                                                     |                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.                                                                                               | 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.                                                                               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traditional knowledge (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/3/Add. 1 and Add.2)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Early warning systems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6)</li> </ul> |

| Thursday 18 November 1999                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.                                                                                                                                                              | 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.                                                                                                             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Early warning systems (ICCD/COP(3)/CST/6)</li> <li>- Creation of ad hoc panel(s)</li> <li>- Drafting of the report to COP</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programme of work for CST</li> <li>- Adoption of recommendations to COP</li> </ul> |

| Friday 19 November 1999 |                  |                 |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                         | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. |
| C<br>S<br>T             | To be determined | - -             |